ORBITAL 2008

Read Me

& Programme Guide

ORBITAL 2008

Welcome to Orbital 2008…

…the 59th British National Science Fiction Convention (Eastercon) at the Radisson Edwardian, Heathrow. This Read Me and Programme Guide contains all the vital information you will need for the con.

There is a separate booklet containing the programme grid and hotel maps.

The information in this booklet was correct when we went to press, but as usual, there are bound to be last minute alterations. Watch the notice boards around the convention and the newsletter for changes.

Please note: The hotel appears to use "Ground Floor" and "1st floor" interchangeably. To keep consistent, this Read-Me refers to the entrance level as the ground floor.

Ops

For those of you new to conventions, the Operations Room is the main convention office. If you have any problems or questions or you need to get in touch with someone running the convention, please go to Ops who will try to help you out. The Ops Room is in the Windsor Suite on the 3rd floor.

Badges

It is essential that you wear your badge at all times. You may be challenged by convention staff if you do not. If you lose your badge, please go to Ops as soon as possible. If you find a badge around the con, please hand it in to Ops.

The Justice Department

This is Orbital's own Security Service. We are here to make sure you, and everyone else, has fun while observing all the rules and policies. We are happy to answer questions whilst we are "on the beat"; however, we will deliver swift, fair but ruthless justice when needed. No, seriously now, if you would like to join us and help around the convention, we will be running a few departmental briefings over the first part of the weekend to give you information, or you can pop by The Justice Department Armoury (OK, Ops).

Groats:

If you work for the convention you may be given groats as a "thank you". Groats have a value of £1 and may be used to pay for food and drink in the hotel. Some dealers have agreed to accept groats as well.

Read Me Replacement

If you lose this Read Me please come to Ops for a replacement. The Justice Department will impose a Community Service Order on you. You will be asked to sign up for a one hour work shift for the convention.

Feedback Sessions

If you have any problems at the con, please come to Ops. In addition we have arranged a short feedback session on Saturday and Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Wentworth, when a member of the committee will be available to take questions and sort out any issues.

The Orbital badge images are public domain, and we acknowledge NASA and the National Space Science Data Center as the supplier of the pictures. Use of these images does not convey NASA's endorsement of commercial goods or services.

Orbital 2008 wishes to thank Abaddon Books for their kind permission to use the "The Justice Department" and 2000AD logos throughout the convention. Please visit their table in the Dealers' Room.

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Hotel

Food

Breakfast: served daily in the Brasserie (and overflow into the Newbury suites) between 8am and 10:30am daily.

Lunch/Afternoon: sandwiches, baps, etc. will be served in the Newbury 1 and the Atrium between 11am and 5:30pm daily. Prices will vary between £2 and £6. There are also hot options e.g. Jacket Potatoes and a Salad Bar available in Newbury 1 only. Vegetarian / Vegan choices are also available.

Dinner: a convention buffet will be served in the Brasserie and Newbury between 5:30pm and 7:30pm, with a special rate of £8 for a main course and a dessert. Tickets need to bought in advance at reception for this meal. After 7:30pm the Brasserie will be open serving the hotel's regular menu.

NB. On **Friday** there will be limited seating for the buffet as there is an event in the Newbury 1. We will be using Newbury 2 instead but as this is not wheelchair accessible so wheelchair users should go to the Brasserie for the con food. We strongly recommend that you arrive early.

Evening: sandwiches, Baps etc. will be available in the Atrium from 8pm to 10pm.

Late night: hot snacks will be available between 11pm and 1am in the Atrium which will include bacon rolls, sausage / veggie sausage in a bun etc. for £2 each.

Outside the Hotel: a list of a few local restaurants is included in your registration pack.

Con Bars:

There are three Con Bars serving drinks at special con prices. There are: The Edwardian Lounge (Real Ale Bar), Newbury 1 and The Atrium. **NB. Henley's Bar, next to reception, and the Polo Bar will *NOT* be serving at con prices.**

Bar Times: 11am-2am. After 2am, if there is demand, the bar may stay open and will continue to accept cash but only from residents.

Drinks prices:

Real Ale	£2.90 pint
Premium Real Ale	£3.50 pint
Lager	£2.90 pint
Draught Cider	£2.90 pint
Orange Juice with or without lemonade	£1.00 pint
Coke/Diet Coke	£1.00 pint
Coffee/tea/chocolate	£1.00 cup

Gym and Pegasus Spa

Once you have spent all your groats, have eaten far too much, have drunk yourself into the ground, and broken every government recommendation, you may have a spark of conscience and decide a fitness regime is called for.

The hotel fitness centre is available to all residents for free. Opening times are 7am-8pm. Spa treatments are available but you are advised to book in advance.

Shop

The hotel shop will be open 9am-8pm Friday to Monday and it sells a wide range of products including aspirin, indigestion tablets, condoms, toothbrushes, feminine sanitary products, herbal sleeping tablets, chocolates (both things like mars bars and boxes of Guylian), mints, chewing gum, cans of drink, London souvenirs, tobacco products and a wide range of other things including underwear!

Television

Please note, Sky One is not available in the Hotel bedrooms.

Checkout

All guests staying in the Radisson must check out by 11am on the day of departure.

Car Parking

We have negotiated a discounted parking rate at the Radisson Edwardian of £5 for a 24 hour period for all convention attendees. Parking periods end when you leave the car park. (Therefore, if you leave the car park and return, please be aware that you will start a new 24 hour period on returning, regardless of whether you are still in a previously paid for 24 hour period.).

Buses

The Radisson Edwardian is within the Heathrow free travel zone. To travel to and from the Airport Central Bus Station you can catch buses 105, 111, 140 or 285 and the 555, 556 and 557.

A taxi to the airport can be called via reception. The Hotel Hoppa bus service (H3) runs from the hotel (and the overflows) to the airport for £4 per person.

Childcare

We are providing free, professional, child care run by Rainbow (courtesy of pass-along funds from Contemplation) on the ground floor in the Ascot room.

Sessions are as follows:

Friday	2pm-6pm
Saturday	9am-1pm, 2pm-6pm
Sunday	9am-1pm, 2pm-6pm
Monday	10am-2pm

If there are more children than places, then priority will be given to those who told us their child care requirements before the convention.

Rainbow may be able to organise baby-sitting. If you wish to use this, then give them as much advance warning as possible.

Your First Con?

Or maybe just your first Eastercon? Collect a sticker from Registration to put on your badge. (And to all you old hands: be gentle).

Disabled Facilities

Orbital wishes to thank Electrical Eggs for their help in preparing for this convention.

The North lifts, near the North Entrance to the hotel, are large enough to take a standard sized scooter; the lifts in the West wing of the hotel are not but may take an ordinary wheelchair.

Orbital has arranged for access to be installed in the Atrium and in the lower part of the Newbury 1. There is no access to the upper tiers of the Newbury 1 or Newbury 2. There very few programme items in these areas and the few that are (like Author signings) will have alternative sessions arranged for people with mobility problems. We will reserve areas in the main programme rooms for wheelchairs but please turn up in plenty of time for the most popular items.

There is an induction loop in the Commonwealth Suite. This encloses around 20 seats which are reserved for people with hearing problems and their friends. Please speak to Tech for more information.

This Read Me is available in A4 and in an unformatted larger font from Ops.

The Orbital disability officer is Marcia Illingworth and she will have a desk in the Dealers' Room to provide assistance and answer any questions you may have. If you have requested any special assistance prior to the con, please visit the desk to sort out you requirements.

Working Animals

Any animals at the convention are working animals. Please do not pet them or feed them without the express permission of the owner.

Art Show Opening Times

NO PHOTOGRAPHY IS ALLOWED IN THE ART SHOW.

Friday	12pm-6pm
Friday Launch Party	7pm-8.30pm
Saturday	10am-6pm
Sunday	10am-12pm

Art Auction and Arrangements

The art auction will be held on Sunday in the Elizabeth Room 13:00 to 15:00. Nothing will go into the auction unless it has at least one pre-auction bid. There will be instructions on how to bid available.

Please collect purchases from the Art Show after the auction. Artists should collect unsold items and money for sales from the Art Show after the auction and on Monday (Connaught Room only).

Dealers' Room

The Dealers' Room is in the County Suite on the ground floor. Only dealers are allowed to take food or drink into the dealers' room.

Friday	2pm-6pm
Saturday	10am-6pm
Sunday	10am-6pm
Monday	10am-3pm

Newsletter

The newsletter will be situated in the Shakespeare Room in the Business Centre on the 3rd floor. Please take items for publication there. Photos may be submitted to a member of the team. Newsletter staff will wear a Newsletter badge and will be around the convention on their laptops and in the Newsletter office. They will welcome any contributions.

Mobile Phones

Please turn off or silence mobile phones when you attend or participate in a programme item.

Orbital Martian War

You may have noticed that your badge has either a blue, green or red colour on it. This shows whether or not you are in the Blue, Green or Red Martian team for the weekend. There are various activities in which you can take part, including most of the games and competitions, that will earn you points for your team. These should be given to your team leaders, who will be introduced at the opening ceremony, and will be wearing an appropriately coloured sash for most of the convention.

There are few rules in this competition. Cheating, for example, while not specifically allowed, is not actually banned either. In fact, if any cheating is particularly innovative, it might even earn extra points. Reporting people for cheating, however, is considered bad form and could lead to a deduction of points.

There may be other rules but you will find these out when you break them

Smoking

It is illegal to smoke in public enclosed areas such as restaurants, bars and hotels in the UK. No smoking in any enclosed areas of the hotel including bars, hallways and function rooms. Designated hotel bedrooms are exempt.

Green Room

Please arrive at the Green Room approximately 15 minutes before your programme item is due to start. This will enable you to meet your fellow participants and order any refreshments.

The green room will close at 10pm each night, so if you are on a programme item later than that please go to the green room before that to claim your drink then or a groat to purchase it later.

Weapons Policy

No weapons, replicas, facsimiles of weapons or items that could be perceived to be a weapon by a member of the public, will be allowed to be carried at Orbital; nor will any other object the committee deems to be dangerous. **Hall costumes are not exempt.**

The committee has the final say as to what constitutes a weapon and reserves the right to revoke the membership of anyone who refuses to comply with this policy. Items that are obviously toys (brightly coloured plastics and foam rubber etc), and do not shoot projectiles, are not included in these restrictions. If in any doubt, check with Ops.

The only exceptions will be for members intending to use a weapon (or a facsimile) as part of the Masquerade or an **approved** programme item. No guns or operational lasers will be allowed under any circumstances. Please check with the Masquerade organiser. If a weapon is required in any other programme item you should have cleared it with the Head of Programme **BEFORE** the convention. It should be taken to Ops to be logged on arrival. Weapons for programme items should be carefully wrapped when carrying between a hotel room and the item.

Please also be aware of the very high level of security at UK airports and the surrounding areas and take extra precautions when carrying anything that may **look** like a weapon to or from your car, from another hotel, on public transport (in fact, best advice for public transport may be *don't*) or around the public areas of the hotel. Weapons may be left in Secure Store for your convenience but at your own risk.

Photo/video/recording Policy

We ask everyone to be considerate of others. Unless otherwise requested, flash photography is allowed for the first five minutes of an item so that photos may be taken for the Souvenir Book.

Around the convention:

1. Do not use a flash without asking, as it can leave someone 'flash-blind'.
2. Do not make a video without getting permission
3. Please do not put video or pictures of individuals on the internet without express agreement.
4. Group shots are OK, but it's polite to ask individuals before taking their pictures.
5. You may take non-flash photos of programme items unless it is specifically mentioned otherwise at the start of the item. Disable any electronic camera noises if possible.
6. Flash photography is *explicitly restricted* during the Masquerade, as flash-blindness is a particular risk while members are wearing costumes that might reduce their vision or mobility. There will be a separate photo-call at the end of the Masquerade, when you can take pictures.

Posters Policy

This policy applies to any posters, signs, or anything that's attached. Note that some of this is imposed upon us by our contract with the hotel.

1. No posters are allowed in the public areas of the hotel.
2. You can only put posters onto hard surfaces - not wallpaper.
3. Use white-tac to attach things, not glue, tape, staples, nails, egg-white, etc.
4. No stickers.
5. Posters must be restrained/tasteful, look professional, and *not* be hand-written.
6. Do not obscure hotel or Orbital signs.

Voting

BSFA Awards at Orbital

The British Science Fiction Association's awards are traditionally presented at the Eastercon, and Eastercon members as well as members of the BSFA itself are entitled to vote for the awards. (But you only get one vote even if you're a member of both!)

This year the awards will be presented on Saturday at 6 pm in the Royal Suite; come along to see what will be voted the best novel, best short fiction, and best artwork of 2007 – and which book wins the BSFA's special fiftieth anniversary award for the best novel of 1958. As usual, the shortlists for all the awards were formed from nominations made by BSFA members.

There's still time to vote at the convention if you haven't sent in a ballot in advance. Votes will be accepted until 3 pm on Saturday, and you should find a ballot box and voting forms at the BSFA table in the dealers' room and at registration. Full details about how to vote are on the form; remember to include your name (not badge name) and Orbital membership number.

Doc Weir

A ballot form for the Doc Weir Award should be found in your registration pack. Please submit your form to the box at Registration by midday on Monday.

CRYPTIC .. PERHAPS?

Getting into Orbit
is just the start
of the journey.

In 2010 Odyssey
begins.

Fan Boards

The Edwardian Lobby (the area outside the Edwardian Lounge) has a number of fan boards, fanzine tables and other convention information.

Voodoo Board

The Voodoo Board is a means of contacting another member of the convention. It is located outside the Edwardian Lounge. Please tick off your name to indicate you have arrived at the convention. To leave a message, follow the instructions on the board.

Check the Voodoo Board regularly to see if you have any messages. On-door joiners should add their names to the list.

Souvenir Book

Orbital has decided to produce a Souvenir Book after the convention. This will include articles on our Guests of Honour, the Orbital Programme and photos taken around the con. Details of how and where to upload photos, articles and reviews onto a computer at the convention, for use in this book, will be put in the newsletter. Items can also be submitted for publication after the con to publications@orbital2008.org.

T Shirt Sales

Fo' Paw will be offering Orbital items for sale, such as T-Shirts, in the Dealers' Room. Please visit their table…

Internet Access

The Radisson Edwardian has an Internet Lounge just off the main reception area. The Hotel also has free WiFi access throughout the hotel. Please be considerate to others and do not abuse this facility to continually download large files (legal or otherwise), and so slow down the network for everyone else.

Programme Information

All-Weekend Events

Apart from the Martian War (see page 5) the following items will be running all weekend. Please see notices on the Fan Boards outside the Edwardian Lounge (and/or in the Games Room if appropriate) for further details.

Weekend Sci-Fi Quiz The E21 weekend sci-fi quiz. Fifty questions on the wall outside the Edwardian room. Answer sheets there too. Study the questions and write down your answers, then return the answer sheet by Sunday evening for marking. Prize for the person or team with highest scores. Using the internet to find the answers is banned!

Second Life - The plan is to try broadcasting a few of the major ceremonies and events of the con in video format, so international fen can watch the proceedings in Second Life.

Easter Eggs in Orbit There are hollow coloured Easter eggs hidden all over the hotel. Each egg contains a gift. If you find an egg, the gift is yours, but you must replace it with something interesting and put the egg back - a gift for the next person who finds it. There's a list on the wall outside the Edwardian room which should build into a list of the strangest things discovered in the Easter eggs.

First and Last Lines of Book The entry form is in your con pack. Please fill in the answers and return to Ops by 4pm on Sunday.

Caption Competition Five stills, prize for the best caption for each (can be found outside the Edwardian Room).

Introduction to Warhammer Pop in the games room at any time to find out about Warhammer and how to play.

Displays Fannish displays for people to peruse.

Zine Tables There are a number of tables outside the Edwardian Lounge that hold a selection of fanzines, old and new, from the UK and elsewhere. These are free to anybody who would like them. You are welcome to browse through them to find something to read at the convention or to take home and read at your leisure.

Masquerade and Cabaret

The Masquerade is where you get to show off your fantastic costumes, and it's followed by the Cabaret where you can entertain your fellow fans with your skills at, well, whatever you do that's entertaining. If you're planning on entering either (or both), please come along to one of the sign-up sessions (Friday 6pm, Hampstead and Saturday 11am, Harlington), so Tech can slot you into the running order and prepare the music and lighting etc.

Don't forget the rehearsal from 5pm on Saturday in the Commonwealth.

Chaos Costume Workshop

If you wish to enter the Masquerade and do not have a costume, or you wish to refine the costume you have, please visit the Chaos Costume workshop in the Kempton Suite on the ground floor. Here there will be materials, and volunteers happy to help you.

Hall Costumes

Saturday is "Hall Costume Day". If you see someone with a costume you admire, you can give them one (or more) of the Hall Costume tokens that came in your con pack. Costumers should hand in their tokens (with name and badge number on the back) to Ops by 12 noon on Sunday. The winner will be announced at the closing ceremony.

Adult Programming

Some items are adults only. No member under 18 will be admitted to these events. The Silver Clay workshop has age restrictions as it requires the use of firing torches. Also due to the equipment in use, there are certain restrictions in the Chaos Robotics Workshop.

Rope Bondage Workshops

This is an opportunity to learn the techniques of rope bondage in a safe, friendly environment. We'll be looking at various techniques, including at least one purely decorative tie from the Japanese 'shibari' tradition. Each workshop will be independent and you do not have to attend all of them. Rope will be available to buy. No removal of clothing, no children and no photography.

Chaos Robotics Workshop

Beyond Cyberdrome needs your help to build a scale model of the City of the Future from Lego, K'Nex, and recycled packaging. You can find us in the Cheltenham room all through the con. Kids welcome as long as they are accompanied by a responsible adult. The finished diorama will be shown at the Great Crystal Cyberdrome Exhibition on Monday afternoon.

Kaffeeklatsches

A Kaffeeklatsche is a chance for a small number of people to have an informal chat with one of our guests.

If you are interested in any of the Klatsches, please write your name and badge number on the sign up sheets at Registration. The lists will close 2 hours 30 mins before each Klatsche is due to start. If the list is over-subscribed, a random draw of those noting interest will be made to select attendees. A list of attendees will be posted by the registration desk two hours before each event is due to start. If you are successful, please confirm you will be able to attend no later than one hour before the event; otherwise, your place will be reallocated.

Other Signups

Some programme items are limited to a fixed number of participants. Some games are also limited numbers. Games signup sheets will be registration. To participate in the following items, you will need to signup at registration:

Performance Workshops
Crisis Management Workshops
Silver Clay Workshop
Bead Workshop

Games Room

In this age of gaming consoles and online multi-player shoot-em-ups did you know there is also a wonderful world of board and card games out there? The Games Room at Orbital gives you an opportunity to try out a new game, or maybe re-visit a classic you haven't played in a long time. There is no set time table, just visit the Games Room, find some fellow players and join in!

A number of convention attendees have kindly agreed to lend games so there will be plenty to choose from and there will be volunteers on hand to explain the rules.

If you have an old favourite, or something unusual, why not bring it along and introduce it to some new players?

The Conspiritors gamers will be providing some of their more "unique" sci-fi inspired games, and there will be an opportunity to try your hand at the Warhammer 40,000 miniatures game.

If Role Playing Games are more your thing, there will be a number running over the weekend. Drop by the Games Room for details. But don't linger too long past midnight that's when the werewolves come out to play!

The Programme

Dress Your Own Eggy Sci-Fi Character *10:00 Winchester* Elfin.

Russell T Davies: Best of British or Fan Boy Let Loose? *11:00 Royal Suite* Is Rusty the saviour of British sci-fi, or is he just a mad fan with a God complex? A discussion about the work of the Welsh writer, who's turned Cardiff into the centre of the British sci-fi universe. Saxon Bullock, Jane Killick, Elfin, Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Reading from 'Principles of Angels' *11:00 Tetworth* Jaine Fenn reads from her upcoming book.

So You Want to be an SF Writer *12:00 Royal Suite* Our panel advises aspiring writers on the process of publishing, and shares their hints and tips. John Jarrold, Thomas Olde Heuvelt, Jaine Fenn, Anton Marks, Ian Whates.

Battle of Camden Lock *12:00 Winchester* Build your own battle-ready space ship, and blast away the competition. Elfin.

Stargazing in Snow and Ice: UK Astronomy in Hawaii *12:00 Tetworth* A talk by Inge Heyer.

Reassessing Heinlein *13:00 Royal Suite* Robert Heinlein has been hailed as one of the most influential writers in science fiction history. How well do his works stand the test of time, and is more recent criticism of his works justified? Peter Harrow, Ashley Pollard, Graham Sleight, Peter Weston.

Novel Discussion: China Miéville - Perdido Street Station *13:00 Tetworth* An in-depth discussion of 'Perdido Street Station' by China Miéville. David McWilliam.

How to be a Panellist at Orbital *13:00 Wentworth* Hints and tips on how to be an effective panellist and moderator at a convention such as Orbital. Iain Coleman, Stephen Kilbane.

The Hovercraft of Disbelief *14:00 Commonwealth* What flaws in a work can you accept without spoiling the story, and what ruins an otherwise excellent book? Paul Cornell, Kari Maund, Martin McGrath, Kat Takenaka, Tom Womack.

Chaos Programming *14:00 Royal Suite* There is no moderator, there are no panellists. It is up to members of the audience to decide what to do with this programme item. Maybe they'll form a panel, or run a workshop, or split into separate items. Or maybe something completely different.

Battle Daleks *14:00 Winchester* Elfin, John Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Ceilidh Workshop *14:00 Tetworth* If you fancy tonight's Ceilidh, and have never been to one before, this is a chance to learn some of the basic steps. Fiona Marshall, Joanna McKenzie, Marion Pitman.

Don't Give Up the Day Job *15:00 Commonwealth* It's the advice always given to a first time novelist, but what happens to those who did give up the day job? Writers discuss going full time: is it as good a life as they thought it would be and what they have to do to survive? Jane Killick, Paul McAuley, Mark Robson, Charles Stross.

Introduction for Convention First-Timers *15:00 Wentworth* Never been to a convention or an Eastercon before? Chris will give you some advice and tell you what's what. Chris O'Shea.

With Friends Like These… *15:00 Royal Suite* Fandom often criticises authors who publish SF novels outside the genre. Are the authors really to blame, or should we admit that perhaps we can't claim everything just because we like it? Christopher J. Garcia, Niall Harrison, John Jarrold, Caroline Mullan, Christopher Priest.

Crisis Management Team Game 1 *15:00 Aintree* It's happening on your watch! Do you have a cool head? Can you make decisions under stress? Do you have the stomach needed to make life and death choices for your people and your species, to fend off disaster or win the war? A team of professional crisis managers will run teams of six through a half-hour scenario. There are even prizes for those who have the smallest body count, or just survive the game! Sign up at Reception. Sabine Furlong, Nigel Furlong.

Judging a Book by its Cover *16:00 Commonwealth* That is, how important is artwork (and design) when selling books? Do modern publishers get it right? Who are the artists that have produced the best covers for a range of science fiction, and why? Christian Dunn, David Hicks, Rog Peyton, Pete Young.

2000AD: A British Institution (30th Anniversary) *16:00 Royal Suite* 2000AD has been a breeding ground for British comic talent for over 30 years, but is it still as important as it once was, or is the readership aging with the comic? Are their new graphic novels bringing in new readers? Is the move of successful talent to the American comics industry inevitable? What future direction should it take? James Bacon, Amanda Kear, Pádraig Ó Méalóid, SMS, Bryan Talbot.

Save the Planet or Get Off the Earth? *16:00 Winchester* What, as SF fans, should our priorities be for a truly sustainable human future? Claire Brialey, Joseph Nicholas, Yvonne Rowse, Peter Weston.

Wells, Clarke, Asimov: Lost In Translation? *16:00 Tetworth* From the dawn of time, sci-fi novels have been favourites to turn into television and film, but does the media really do the writings of these great authors justice, or do the messages end up getting lost? Paigan Stone, John Medany, John Wadsworth-Ladkin, Frank Wu.

Card Making Workshop *16:00 Wentworth* Judi Hodgkin will be hosting this workshop on card-making. She has brought along a horde of bits and pieces for you to play with and make some beautiful, artistic greetings cards. If you'd like guidance from her, she'll be on hand to show you some simple design rules (and how to break them), or you can simply raid her stash and make your own inventions.

When It Changed *17:00 Commonwealth* Our panel discuss their careers as female authors of science fiction and fantasy. Has anything changed within the industry over the years? Is there anything that should be changing, and what can we do to help? Pat Cadigan, Tanith Lee, Kari Maund, Jaine Fenn, Liz Williams.

Be Careful What You Wish For - The New Dr Who *17:00 Royal Suite* Is the new Dr Who all it's cracked up to be? Nickey Barnard, Lilian Edwards, Roz Kaveney, Martin Sketchley.

BSFA 50: It Was Fifty Years Ago Today - 1958 *17:00 Winchester* One of a set of five linked panels exploring what it was like to be an SF fan during the different eras since the BSFA was established. Rob Hansen, Jim Linwood, Peter Weston.

What are RPGs about? *17:00 Richmond* No idea? Want to find out what the fascination with role-playing games is all about. Come along and find out. James MacFarquhar, Marcus Rowland.

21st Century Classics Films *17:00 Tetworth* Seen any great films made in the last few years? Andrew Ducker, Colin Harris, Tony Lee, Martin McGrath.

Hidden Gems *18:00 Commonwealth* What authors are deserving of more awards, attention, and critical acclaim than they currently receive? What are your favourite overlooked books of the past few years? Sandy Auden, Penny Hill, Roz Kaveney, China Miéville.

Star Trek: Is There Anyone Still to Explore? *18:00 Royal Suite* What is the next step for Star Trek? Tlanti, Jonjo, Sharon Lewis-Jones, John Medany, John Wadsworth-Ladkin.

JETS Report *18:00 Winchester* In 2007 European fandom paid good money to send Chris O'Shea to Japan. Who knew he would return? Chris talks about the fan fund, Japan and the trip and gives excuses as to why the trip report is delayed - or perhaps surprises everyone by having a trip report with him! Chris O'Shea.

BSFA Book Launch *18:00 Tetworth* NewCon Press, BSFA and Pendragon Press book launches, with free wine, special offers and books to give away! With Ian Whates, Chris Teague, Christopher Priest, Pat Cadigan, Ian Watson, Justina Robson, Liz Williams, Leigh Kennedy, Freda Warrington, Mark Newton, Martin Sketchley, Kim Lakin-Smith, Lizzie Priest, Kari Sperring, Dave Hutchinson and Claire Weaver.

Make your own Pig Puppet *18:00 Wentworth* Sewing workshop for children. The pig puppets to be presented to Neil Gaiman at the reading on Sunday. Rita Medany.

Basic Costuming Skills Workshop *18:00 Kempton* Learn the basics for making your own costumes. Nik Whitehead.

Masquerade and Cabaret Sign-up 1 *18:00 Hampstead* If you wish to enter the Masquerade or cabaret, please attend this session or the second session to register your interest and discuss your requirements with the organisers.

Orbital Welcome Party *18:30 Newbury 1* The convention is well under way and the convention committee would like to welcome you. Come along, chat with you friends (or make new ones) and relax whilst the Alien Jazz Band plays hits from the Star Wars Cantina.

A Hitchhikers Guide to Web Comics *19:00 Commonwealth* Are web comics the future of storytelling in a world of short attention spans, appealing to fans of all kinds, or are they just newspaper cartoons we read on screen? The panel discusses their favourite webcomics, the reason for their appeal, and whether you can actually make money from them. John Coxon, Andrew Ducker, David Mansfield, Joanna McKenzie.

Coping With Rejection *19:00 Royal Suite* How writers keep going when faced with mounting piles of rejection letters. Elizabeth Counihan, Colin Harvey, John Hawkes-Reed, Martin Owton, Martin Sketchley.

Real-life Pokemon *19:00 Winchester* Two competitors at a time battle it out with their Pokemon - Made up from members of the audience with props! Jonathan Baddeley, Elfin.

Introduction to the Art Show *19:00 Connaught* A chance to meet the artists, maybe discuss their work, and find out how to put in those all-important bids on items displayed. Robbie Bourget, John Harold are your hosts.

Are TV Novelisations and Tie-ins Proper Books? *19:00 Tetworth* Some SF readers look down on TV tie-ins and novelisations, but is this justified? Nickey Barnard, Piers Beckley, Una McCormack, James Swallow.

Opening Ceremony *20:00 Commonwealth* OK, we know the convention has already been going for ten hours, but this is where it officially starts. Meet the guests, the committee and find out who the Martian leaders are. This includes a short, but fun, mixer game to get things going.

UFO: The Best of British Sci-fi? *20:00 Royal Suite* Was UFO the pinnacle of British sci-fi? Has it all been downhill since then? Or was it the start of a golden era? Susan Booth, Dave Lally, Tony Lee, John Wadsworth-Ladkin, Frank Wu.

Pub Quiz *21:00 Commonwealth* The traditional pub quiz with an SF bent. Your quiz master is Tlanti.

The UK Short Fiction Market *21:00 Royal Suite* We are far from the heyday of Interzone and the British Boom; SF short fiction mags in the US have declining subscriptions; Hub tried to launch and ended up internet-only. Is the short fiction market dying, and what can be done to revitalise it? Do we want to? Gary Couzens, Jetse de Vries, Niall Harrison, Colin Harvey John Meaney,.

The Supernatural Demon Hunt *21:00 Winchester* How's your knowledge of Supernatural the TV series? Fancy yourself as a Hunter? Can you collect all the objects and reach Hellsgate before it opens? Come and join us playing Supernatural - the board game. Jonathan Baddeley, Elfin, Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin, John Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Rope Bondage Workshop - Wrist and Ankle Ties *21:00 Wentworth* Learn how to tie Texas handcuffs, cat's paw cuffs, etc. Adults only. Graham Marsden.

Down to Earth *21:00 Tetworth* SF TV is booming on both sides of the Atlantic, but most of it is supernatural and set in the here and now. Which shows are worth seeking out, and is Battlestar Galactica enough to satisfy our space-show needs? Roz Kaveney, Jane Killick, John Medany, Ashley Pollard.

The Alien Jazz Band *21:15 Atrium*

Ceilidh *22:00 Commonwealth* Music for the Ceilidh is provided by 'Pigeon English'. Sorry - no sgian dubh or swords allowed. Kilts are welcome!

Guest of Honour: Rog Peyton *22:00 Royal Suite* Rog is interviewed and challenged by Greg Pickersgill.

Awful SF Movies *22:00 Forsyth* A talk with clips. Dave Lally**.**

Filk *22:00 Tetworth* Filk is music made by SF fans about their favourite subject(s). Orbital 2008's filk programme starts with two short concerts by noted filkers, followed by a moderated circle. Come along and join in the singing, or just listen if you prefer. Coordinated by Valerie Houston.

It's Crap but We Like It *23:30 Royal Suite* We know some TV programmes are rubbish, so why do we keep watching them? Roz Kaveney, Tony Lee, John Medany.

Slash Workshop *23:30 Winchester* Slash is a type of fan fiction in which characters are shown to have an explicit or otherwise homosexual relationship. Discuss ideas and help the group write some slash fiction. Adults only. Elfin, Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Blake's 7 Drinking Game *00:30 Winchester* Adults only. Elfin, Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin, John Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Feedback Session *09:30 Wentworth* Having problems? Let us know so we can try to sort things out.

The Use of Mythology in Fantasy *10:00 Commonwealth* New interpretations and retellings of mythology in fantasy novels abound. What attracts authors to this material, and what responsibility do they have to the source material? Nic Clarke, Neil Gaiman, Maura McHugh, Sarah Singleton, Liz Williams.

Novel Discussion: Tanith Lee - Drinking Sapphire Wine *10:00 Royal: Edward* An in-depth discussion of 'Drinking Sapphire Wine' by Tanith Lee. Craig Gidney.

Tai Chi *10:00 Royal: Elizabeth* Fiona Anderson.

But Does It Move RPG *10:00 Richmond* The philosopher and artist Ariaglio made an extraordinary claim at the last meeting of the Invisible College of Scientists: He postulated the World and Major Stars orbit around the Sun. He even had a little clockwork model to demonstrate his theories. It was all very impressive; but if the Church hears of it, charges of Heresy and a swift execution are certain to follow. Now a spy for the Cardinal Enzio, Stalwart defender of Church doctrine, has been uncovered in the society, and Ariaglio's life hangs in the balance... Inspired by the likes of the 3 Musketeers and Errol Flynn movies, 7th Sea is set in an alternate 17th Century Europe, and features swashbuckling action; intrigue; spies; and, of course, villainous Cardinals. James MacFarquhar.

What was the Japanese Worldcon Like? *10:00 Winchester* Last year, for the first time, Japan hosted the World Science Fiction Convention. Find out how it went and learn how alive science fiction is in Japan. Vincent Docherty, Feorag, Inge Heyer, Chris O'Shea, Robert Sneddon.

Living in a Networked World *10:00 Tetworth* How communications and distributed computing are transforming science, art and business. Phil Bradley, Iain Coleman, Roger Fishwick, Phil Huggins.

Morning Bellydance Class *10:30 Royal: Elizabeth* Stiff from sleeping in a hotel bed? This will sort you out. Kat Takenaka.

Guest of Honour: China Miéville *11:00 Commonwealth* "For God's Sake It's Just A Story! A Reader's Guide to Ruining SF." A talk and debate.

Ashes To Ashes - Manchester to the Met *11:00 Royal: Edward* After the end of Life on Mars some demanded further explanation, some were happy to read into it what they would. But what does the new series, Ashes to Ashes, say about Sam's situation? Was he mad? Is Alex just as insane, or is she too in a coma? Does that make Gene Hunt God, or the Devil? Kathy Jay, Jane Killick, Elfin, John Medany.

Photoshop Workshop *11:00 Royal: George* John Kaiine.

Silver Clay Workshop One *11:00 Wentworth* Silver Clay is a remarkable product. Take a piece of what looks like porcelain clay and turn it into a piece of wearable art. Due to the cost of the clay, you will need to pay £8 towards the cost of the clay, but everything else will be provided. Members aged 13-15 may attend if accompanied by a responsible adult who will do their firing for them. No under 13s. Due to the cost of the equipment, a maximum of 20 people will be allowed in this workshop. Sign-up sheets will be available at Registration. In this first workshop, we'll make our piece and leave it to dry out. You must also come to the second workshop to finish the piece off. Judi Hodgkin.

Fantasy Conrunner *11:00 Winchester* What would be the best con ever, and how close can we get to it? Steve Davies, Martin Easterbrook, Hayley Marsden, Catherine Pickersgill, Ian E Stockdale.

Adapting Tolkein from Book to Film *11:00 Tetworth* The challenges , the pitfalls and the triumphs. Joe Abercrombie, Saxon Bullock, Vincent Docherty, jan finder, Gary Stratmann.

Watch with Mother *11:00 Forsyth* A selection of clips from the classic b&w BBC series, introduced by Dave Lally.

Masquerade and Cabaret Sign-up 2 *11:00 Harlington*.

Supernatural Romance *12:00 Royal: Edward* How? Why? With whom? Paigan Stone, Jo Fletcher, Kim Lakin-Smith, Tanith Lee.

Book Auction *12:00 Royal: George* If you wish to add to your book collection, come along and bid; if you want to sell, please take books to the Ops room by the end of Friday.

Who Wants To Be Master of the Universe? *12:00 Winchester* "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" style sci-fi quiz. Elfin, Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin.

The Doctor - Saviour or Trickster God? *12:00 Tetworth* Nickey Barnard, Piers Beckley, Paul Cornell, Calapine, Kathy Sands.

Crisis Management Team Game 2 *12:00 Aintree* See Friday 15:00 for full details of this item. Sign up at reception. Nigel Furlong, Sabine Furlong.

I'm Sorry I Haven't a Robot *12:00 Forsyth* Recorded live at Eastercon 2007, Beyond Cyberdrome present their unique robot-themed take on several Radio 4 comedy panel games. Tony Keen.

Werewolves for Children - Session 1 *12:00 Hampstead* A chance for children to play the popular late-night Werewolves game. Rita Medany.

Kaffeeklatsches - Charles Stross *12:00 Henley's Salon* Please sign up at reception if you wish to attend. Limited places available. See page 9 for more details.

Fantastic London *12:30 Commonwealth* From Dickens to Iain Sinclair, London is one of the most imagined cities in the world. Why is that, and what does a fantastic imagination add? Neil Gaiman, Geoff Ryman, Louis Savy, Graham Sleight.

What Books Do or Don't Make Good Movies? *13:00 Royal: Edward* Saxon Bullock, Pat Cadigan, Andrew Ducker, Dave Lally, Gary Stratmann.

Interplanetary Runabout Design Workshop *13:00 Royal: Elizabeth* Session One – Introduction, objectives and brainstorm. Brian Parsons.

Transforming Venus *13:00 Tetworth* Nik Whitehead.

Introduction for Convention First-Timers *13:00 Wentworth* Never been to a convention or an Eastercon before? Chris will give you some advice and tell you what's what. Chris O'Shea.

Guest of Honour: Tanith Lee *14:00 Commonwealth* Meet our Guest of Honour who is interviewed by Sarah Singleton.

Global Warming *14:00 Royal: Edward* What will the Earth look like in 100 years' time? And what technologies will people use to cope? Andrew Armstrong, Christine Davidson, Phil Huggins, Joanna McKenzie.

A Way of Life or Just a Hobby? *14:00 Winchester* What is fandom to you and how could anyone be wrong-headed enough to think differently? Jess Bennett, Rob Jackson, Tony Keen, Catherine Pickersgill, Ang Rosin.

Space Art *14:00 Royal: George* Jackie E Burns.

Performance Workshop 1 - Movement *14:00 Royal: Elizabeth* Warm-ups and drama exercises to flex your acting muscles. This is the first of two drama workshops. This session will focus on how movement can inform your performance. You can attend one or both sessions. To be sure of a place please sign up on the sheet at Registration in advance (up to 20 places). Come wearing clothes you can easily run around in, because we will. Sorry, no under 16s or spectators. Dawn Abigail, Clare Goodall, David Wake.

Is British SF TV Being Buried under the US Onslaught? *14:00 Tetworth* A discussion around the insurgence of US sci-fi onto our televisions / internet / digital channels and its impact on British sci-fi in terms of UK fan interests. Paigan Stone, Tony Lee, John Medany, Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Stargate RPG *14:00 Hampstead* This RPG is for a maximum of six people so please sign up in advance at registration. Amanda Kear.

London SF Festival Shorts *14:15 Forsyth* A collection of shorts from the London Science Fiction Festival. Introduced by Dave Lally

Flash fiction with the Friday Flash Fictioners *15:00 Royal: George* An introduction to the concept of FFF including what they have learnt from their experience. There will be individual feedback from members of the FFF gang, some basic advice on constructing a piece of flash fiction, time for the audience to "have a go" at writing their own piece and, hopefully, time for three or four volunteers to read out their efforts. Neil Beynon, Shaun Green, Gareth Jones, Martin McGrath, Gareth Powell , Paul Raven.

Living with a Slash Writer *15:00 Winchester* Are you living with a slash writer? Do you dread the moment that two male characters in your favourite TV show make the mistake of patting one another on the back? Do you roll your eyes whenever John Barrowman appears on television, just knowing whatever he's doing it's bound to be slashy? Come and share in a safe environment… Adults only. Jonathan Baddeley, Tlanti, John Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Alice in Sunderland *15:00 Tetworth* Bryan Talbot talks about his graphic novel 'Alice in Sunderland'.

Make Your Own Dragon *15:00 Wentworth* Crafting workshop for children with Fiona Marshall, Rita Medany.

George Hay Memorial Lecture: Prof. David Southwood *15:30 Commonwealth* **"Space Programmes in Fact and Fiction."** The SF Foundation presents the 9th George Hay Memorial Lecture by Professor David Southwood, Head of Science for the European Space Agency.

Battlestar Galactica: Razor at the Cutting Edge? *15:30 Royal: Edward* Battlestar Galactica has progressed from the original series to a new re-imagining and now the Razor TV movie. But how do they compare, and dare anyone say which is best? Nigel Furlong, Tony Lee, Ashley Pollard, Gary Stratmann.

Chris and James Present... *15:30 Royal: Elizabeth* ...a TAFF report in an hour! Or at least part of a TAFF report, with your help. James Bacon, Christopher J. Garcia.

BSFA 50: It was Forty Years Ago Today - 1968 *16:00 Winchester* One of a set of five linked panels exploring what it was like to be an SF fan during the different eras since the BSFA was established. Bill Burns, Eve Harvey, Greg Pickersgill, Peter Weston.

What Does an Editor Do? *16:00 Tetworth* What, exactly, does an editor do? Should it be invisible to the reader? Jetse de Vries, Jo Fletcher, Darren Nash, Ian Watson, Ian Whates.

Rope Bondage Workshop - Chest and Lower Body Harnesses *16:00 Wentworth* There will be an opportunity to purchase rope at the end of the workshops. Adults only. Graham Marsden.

Star Wars Lego and Top Trumps competition for children *16:00 Forsyth* Children pit their wits against each other at Star Wars Lego and Top Trumps. Tracey O'Rourke.

Autograph Session for the Guests of Honour *16:00 Newbury 2* Note: there is no wheelchair access to this room. If you are unable to get to this session, a wheelchair accessible session has been arranged for Sunday, 20:15. Neil Gaiman, Tanith Lee, China Miéville, Charles Stross.

Religion in SF *17:00 Royal Suite* Fatima Ahad, Chaz Brenchley, Kim Lakin-Smith, Tony Lee, Rita Medany.

Stargate Crazy Golf *17:00 Winchester* Elfin.

What's the point of fannish awards? *17:00 Tetworth* Is it time to stop grumbling about the Novas, FAAn awards, fan Hugos and the fact that most fannish awards are for fanzine activity? Christopher J. Garcia, Greg Pickersgill, Alison Scott, Pete Young.

BSFA Awards *18:00 Royal Suite* The BSFA presents its annual awards. Please see page 7 for voting details.

The Past Year's SF Films *18:00 Winchester* The panel and audience discuss, recommend and criticise the past years film releases. Andrew Ducker, Lilian Edwards, Dave Lally, Louis Savy.

The Fall of Night 451 *18:00 Tetworth* Utopia implies central control and repression - is this a good thing? Is it always implied? Edward James, James Lovegrove, Adam Roberts, Justina Robson, Tom Womack.

Acting Workshop for Children *18:00 Wentworth* A chance for budding talent to come along and see what the art of acting is all about. Children of all ages are welcome as long as they are comfortable reading plays. Ruby Sahota.

Limericks and Tongue Twisters *18:00 Aintree* Practical demo and workshop Mic Rogers.

Gothic Fiction *19:00 Royal Suite* Talk by Kellie Takenaka.

Out of Space and Time: Perils and Pitfalls of Book Collecting *19:00 Winchester* What's it like when your SF books aren't just things you read but form an actual "collection"? Brian Ameringen.

Permaculture - The Art of Designing Away Work *19:00 Tetworth* Can we work with appropriate technology, and natural systems, to live well in sustainable communities? 'Perma-culture' uses human ingenuity to design away *both* fossil fuel 'addiction', *and* boring or back-breaking labour. This workshop explores 'Permaculture in Action': The 'Transition Culture' movement is responding to Peak Oil and Global Climate Change by applying Permaculture to whole towns - 38 so far. Amanda Baker.

Lord of the Rings RPG *19:00 Hampstead* This RPG is for a maximum of eight people so please sign up in advance at registration. Danielle Ray.

The Orbital Masquerade and Cabaret *20:00 Commonwealth* The traditional Eastercon Masquerade followed by a cabaret featuring some of the best fannish talent. With your glamorous hosts, Chris O'Shea and Sue Mason.

Alternate Space Programmes *20:00 Royal Suite* Alternate history of the space programme is a popular genre trope, most recently seen in Jed Mercurio's 'Ascent'. The panel discusses the different alternate histories (Baxter, Mercurio, Warren Ellis's 'Ministry of Space'), why they have such appeal, whether it's due to the current death of the space programme. Simon Bradshaw, Dave Clements, Vincent Docherty, Dave Hardy, David Southwood.

Torchwood Bingo *20:00 Winchester* Elfin, Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin.

We're the UFO - SF in Musical Theatre *20:30 Tetworth* For thirty years, the stage musical has been turning to the worlds of sci-fi, horror, and comics for inspiration and source material. Some of the resulting works are among the most innovative, brilliant theatrical musicals ever, while others include the greatest disasters in theatrical history. Not suitable for those aged under 15. Jonathon Collis.

Right to Reply *21:00 Royal Suite* Should authors respond to their reviews? Should they have the right to respond to their critics? Should reviewers enter into debate? Niall Harrison, Edward James, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Christopher Priest, Adam Roberts.

Disco - Virgins and Pros *22:00 Commonwealth* The first disco of the weekend provides an opportunity for the pros to show off their old convention T-shirts or for first-timers to be innovative. Alternatively, you could come up with some other idea based on the theme. With DJ Marwan.

A Sensation of Vertigo *22:00 Royal Suite* How British writers changed the face of comics in the 1980s John Medany, Michael O'Toole, Kat Takenaka, Bryan Talbot.

At Least I Can Get a Fanzine Article Out of That…. *22:00 Winchester* Life through the eye of a fan writer. James Bacon, Graham Charnock, Flick, Yvonne Rowse, Ian Sorensen.

Filk *22:00 Tetworth* After the cabaret, come along and listen to some of the performers sing some more. Two short concerts by noted filkers, followed by a circle. Come and sing until dawn. Or just listen, if you prefer. Coordinated by Valerie Houston.

Blake's 7 Wobblevision *22:00 Edwardian Lounge* Your chance to recreate an episode of Blake's 7 with just a digital camera and whatever props we can find in the hotel. Steve Rogerson.

Fact or Fiction *23:00 Royal Suite* Is what you know fact or fiction? If you like a QI type quiz, come along and see if you can tell the difference between what you think you know and what you do know. Phil Bradley.

Twisted Tales *23:00 Winchester* Horror/sci-fi stories, readings, bring your own work or published fic and prepare to be scared. Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Notes:

Easter Sunday Celebration! *9:00am Royal: George* Informal, non-denominational service - all welcome! Julie Chilton, Michael Davidson.

Feedback Session *09:30 Wentworth* Having problems? Let us know so we can try to sort things out.

2010 Eastercon Bid Session *10:00 Commonwealth* Next year's Eastercon will be in Bradford, but where will it be in 2010? This is your chance to influence the decision.

Books on the Web *10:00 Royal: Edward* How should authors be using the internet? Is a blog a useful tool to attract new audiences? Do readers really want to read about what their favourite author had for breakfast? Does fame on the internet translate into sales and awards? Do eBooks and creative-commons-licensed works have any impact on the sales of paper books? Simon Bradshaw, Cory Doctorow, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Jo Fletcher, Paul Raven.

Tai Chi *10:00 Royal: Elizabeth* Fiona Anderson.

Writing Bad Blake's 7 Slash *10:00 Winchester* Adults only. Elfin, Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Novel Discussion: Neil Gaiman - American Gods *10:00 Tetworth* An in-depth discussion of a American gods by Neil Gaiman. Mattia Valente.

Children's Art and Crafts Workshop *10:00 Wentworth* From beads to painting, two hours of fun for children to explore their creativity. Tracey O'Rourke.

Cryptic Crosswords Workshop *10:00 Hampstead* Ian Taylor.

Performance Workshop 2 - Sound *10:30 Royal: Elizabeth* Warm-ups and drama exercises to flex your vocal chords. This is the second of two drama workshops. This session will focus on sound. You can attend one or both sessions. To be sure of a place please sign up on the sheet at Registration in advance (up to 20 places). Come wearing clothes you can easily run around in, because we will. Sorry, no under 16s or spectators. Dawn Abigail, Clare Goodall, David Wake.

Guest of Honour: Charles Stross *11:00 Commonwealth* Charles Stross (Charlie to his friends) has spent the last many years becoming an "overnight success". Each of his books have enough ideas for a dozen regular SF novels. Come, be amazed to find that he's even more inventive and fascinating in real life!

RPGs are Circling the Drain *11:00 Royal: Edward* Tabletop role-playing is dying, what should gamers and the industry do about it? Jonathan Baddeley, Rebecca, Brianna Flynt, Kin-Ming Looi, John Medany.

Interplanetary Runabout Design Workshop *11:00 Royal: George* Session Two – design and operation. Brian Parsons.

BSFA 50: It was Thirty Years Ago Today - 1978 *11:00 Winchester* One of a set of five linked panels exploring what it was like to be an SF fan during the different eras since the BSFA was established. Margaret Austin, Rob Hansen, Eve Harvey, Caroline Mullan, Rog Peyton.

Was Sam Tyler really the Master? *11:00 Tetworth* Were Life on Mars and Dr Who set in the same universe and if Sam Tyler really was the Master would it explain his amnesia and apparent time travelling ability? Paigan Stone, Roz Kaveney, Ricardo Pinto.

Crisis Management Team Game 3 *11:00 Aintree* See Friday 15:00 for full details of this item. Sign up at reception. Nigel Furlong, Sabine Furlong.

Working Together to Create Ideas *12:00 Royal: Edward* Tanith and John explain how by working together the creative process is enhanced. An intriguing look at the genesis of ideas and their finished structure. John Kaiine, Tanith Lee.

Live Action Taff Trip Report *12:00 Winchester* The third instalment (the first two were at Novacon 2006 and 2007) of Bridget Bradshaw's report from her trip in 2006, in which she reaches California before the Worldcon. Bridget Bradshaw.

Star Trek: The Ethical Implications of Terraforming *12:00 Tetworth* Like so many sci-fi ideas, Star Trek's universe is based around a policy of terraforming, but is the idea ethical and what implications does such a policy have? Paigan Stone, Tlanti, John Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Gerry Anderson Special *12:00 Forsyth* Excerpts from the classic Gerry Anderson shows, the uncrowned kings of UK puppet SF TV, introduced by Dave Lally.

Want To Be In A Play? *12:00 Hampstead* If you would like to be involved in plays at future Eastercons, then come along and introduce yourself. David Wake.

Kaffeeklatsche - Neil Gaiman *12:00 Henley's Salon* Please sign up at reception if you wish to attend. Strictly limited places available. See page 9 for more details.

Not the Clarke Awards *12:30 Commonwealth* Our panel of ex-judges discusses this year's shortlist, and which book they think should win. Claire Brialey, Edward James, Roz Kaveney, Tony Keen, Graham Sleight.

Art Auction *13:00 Royal: Elizabeth* Time to bid on some of the goodies you have been looking at in the Art Show.

K-9 Agility *13:00 Winchester* Test your skills with a robot K9. Elfin, John Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Gung Ho Comics *13:00 Royal: Edward* Advertising in comics has turned from computer games and sneakers to exhorting readers to drink milk, don't do drugs, and join the US army. Are military themes and settings increasingly prevalent in mainstream comics, is this a reaction to current events, and did the advertising follow the storylines, or do they follow the adverts? James Bacon, Alexander Ingram, Ben Little, Maura McHugh, John Medany.

Politics in Young Adult Fiction *13:00 Tetworth* What are the differences when writing about politics in YA fiction? What can and can't you assume about the knowledge of your audience? What extra challenges does it present? Cory Doctorow, Amanda Hemingway, Martin McGrath, China Miéville, Ruth O'Reilly.

Easter Egg Hunt for Children *13:00 Hampstead* Fiona Marshall, Rita Medany.

Guest of Honour: Neil Gaiman *14:00 Commonwealth* Neil Gaiman is involved in many areas. Books, comics, films, music... but is he as entertaining and thought-provoking in real life? Yes, of course he is! Bound to be one of the highlights of the convention, this is his GoH spot.

Bioastronomy -- The Biology of Astronomy *14:00 Royal: Edward* The Earth-Moon-Sun system has a marked effect on life on Earth and evolution. So much so it is possible to do things such as use life to work out the distance from the Earth to the Moon as well as elucidate how the Earth-Moon system itself is changing over millions of years. A talk by Jonathan Cowie.

But Does It Move RPG *14:00 Richmond* A second chance to play this game. See Saturday 10:00 for details. James MacFarquhar.

Simon & Schuster Book Launch *14:00 Tetworth* Sarah Singleton, author of 'Century', 'Heretic' and 'Sacrifice', will launch her new novel, the 'Amethyst Child'. Come along to meet Sarah and get your book signed (exclusive pre-publication sales at Forbidden Planet). Wine and nibbles on offer.

Before and After Peter Jackson *15:00 Royal: Edward* Fantasy Films - have they changed since LoTR hit our screens. Jessica Yates.

Short Story read by Tanith Lee *15:00 Tetworth*

Silver Clay Workshop 2 *15:00 Wentworth* The second of two workshops. This is the one where the magic happens. Once your piece has dried out, we will fire it. Watch as it becomes 99.9% silver before your eyes. Then you'll polish it to a professional finish and complete the piece ready to wear. Judi Hodgkin.

Kaffeeklatsche - China Miéville *15:00 Henley's Salon* Meet our guest of honour. Please sign up at reception if you wish to attend. Limited places available. See page 9 for more details.

Writing the Near Future *15:30 Commonwealth* Why is it harder to predict 50 years in the future than 500? What do you do when events overtake your novel? Who gets it right, and are we all predicting the same future? Matt Browne, Paul McAuley, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Justina Robson, Charles Stross.

Stretch, Balance and Relax Workshop *15:30 Royal: Elizabeth* Bodybalance teacher Jess takes you through a gentle workout combining yoga, Pilates and T'ai Chi to build flexibility and strength and leave you feeling relaxed and calm. Loose, comfortable clothing is advisable. Jess Bennett

Deface the Music III *15:30 Royal: George* SF & Fantasy Music Quiz. Michael Davidson, Christine Davidson.

BSFA 50: It was Twenty Years Ago Today - 1988 *16:00 Winchester* One of a set of five linked panels exploring what it was like to be an SF fan during the different eras since the BSFA was established. Bridget Bradshaw, Christina Lake, Greg Pickersgill, Mark Plummer, Mike Scott.

Space Travel: How it Works *16:00 Tetworth* Different technologies and their possibilities. Andrew Armstrong, Iain Coleman, John Coxon, Nik Whitehead.

Dolly Sodom *16:00 Forsyth* A 15 min film made by the American film maker, Brandon Dexter, of one of John Kaiine's short stories. Introduced by John Kaiine.

Autograph Session *16:00 Newbury 2* Those confirmed so far include Chaz Brenchley, Colin Harvey, Paigan Stone, Juliet McKenna, Anthony Gilbert, Geoff Ryman, Anthony Hilbert.

Why is Blake's 7 Still Popular? *17:00 Commonwealth* Blake's 7 is 30 years old this year, yet it is still attracting new fans, and has now been re-imagined in a series of audio plays. Tanith Lee wrote two of the original episodes and James Swallow is one of the writers on the new audio plays. Tanith Lee, Steve Rogerson, James Swallow, Jules Jones.

Myth, History and Dream: Sandman *17:00 Royal: Edward* Greece and Rome in the Sandman. Tony Keen.

Introduction to the LX Music Stream *17:00 Royal: George* Vince Docherty is developing a 'Music & SF' programme for LX, the 2009 Eastercon. This is a working session to discuss and build on his initial ideas for panels and 'live' musical events. Vincent Docherty.

Who are you Calling Obsolete? *17:00 Winchester* Fanzine panel featuring young fanzine editors for a change Abi Brown, John Coxon, Flick, Christopher J. Garcia, Peter Sullivan.

Discussion of the 2007 BSFA Awards *17:00 Tetworth* A chance to have your say about what you thought of the results at yesterday's awards ceremony. Liz Batty, Chris Hill, Duncan Macgregor, Mattia Valente.

London SF Festival Shorts *17:00 Forsyth* Another chance to see the collection of shorts from the London Science Fiction Festival. Introduced by Dave Lally.

The Appeal of Lovecraft *18:00 Commonwealth* What is it about Lovecraft and his mythos that makes it so enduring and used by so many authors? Roz Kaveney, China Miéville, Marcus Rowland, Charles Stross.

Physics Mistakes in SF *18:00 Royal: Edward* A talk by Mark Sinclair.

Wolves in the Wall Reading for Children *18:00 Royal: Elizabeth* Neil Gaiman reads extracts from Wolves in the Wall. This reading is for children only. Neil Gaiman, Rita Medany.

David Stewart Book Auction *18:00 Royal: George* David Stewart, who died in October 2006, was well known in Irish fandom, and regularly attended Eastercon. At his funeral, David's parents asked if his books could be sold to raise money for Esophogeal Cancer research in David's name.

Fan History: Why Bother? *18:00 Winchester* All the reasons fans are interested in what fans used to do, and why some still resist being interested at all. Doug Bell, Lilian Edwards, Mark Plummer, Peter Weston.

Acceptable Subjects for Artwork *18:00 Tetworth* Phil Bradley, SMS, Anne Sudworth.

Massage Workshop *18:00 Wentworth* Learn how to give and receive. Jill Bradley.

Everyone's a Critic *19:00 Royal: Edward* Everyone can post their own reviews online. How does this affect more professional web sites and magazines? Are reviews posted on your blog "proper" reviews? Andrew Ducker, Niall Harrison, Colin Harvey, Tony Lee, Paul Raven.

Writing Romance for the Small Press Workshop *19:00 Royal: Elizabeth* Adults only. Jules Jones.

Two Minute Warning *19:00 Winchester* Quick-fire opinionated discussion panel for SF fans. Michael Abbott, Christopher J. Garcia, Tony Keen, Catherine Pickersgill, Ian Snell.

Spaceship In a Decaying Orbit *19:00 Tetworth* The Orbital Balloon Debate. Mr Spock, Dr Cavor, Rodney McKay (SGA), Marvin the Paranoid Android and 7 of 9 battle it out to stay in the capsule for re-entry into the atmosphere.

Rope Bondage Workshop - Full Body Harness *19:00 Wentworth* Adults only. Graham Marsden.

Kimono Fitting Workshop *19:00 Kempton* How many fans visited Japan for the Worldcon last year and bought a beautiful Kimono and have never been able to get it to fit correctly? Come along to the Chaos Workshop and learn how to make the most of these colourful and traditional garments.

Sky at Night 50 Years Old *19:00 Forsyth* Clips from the classic astronomy and UK's longest running TV programme, introduced by Dave Lally.

The Death of UK Physics *20:00 Royal: Elizabeth* UK astronomy, particle physics and space science face £120m cuts, threatening Jodrell Bank, UKIRT etc. Why? How can we stop it? Simon Bradshaw, Dave Clements, Inge Heyer.

Orbital Play – 'The Terminal Zone' *20:00 Commonwealth* A biographical work about Rod Serling by Andrew J Wilson. Directed by Mark Slater and starring David Wake and James Steel.

The Demolished Manifesto *20:00 Royal: Edward* Why do some manifestos take off, and some never take hold? Which have been successful? Mike Cobley, Amanda Hemingway, Roz Kaveney, Ian Watson.

Poetry Reading *20:00 Royal: Winchester* A performance of poetry from professionals and gifted amateurs. Chris Morgan, Pauline Morgan.

Comics as Collaboration *20:00 Tetworth* The stereotype is of the lonely novel author working alone. How different is the collaboration with an artist on a comic or graphic novel, and how do you learn to work with someone else instead of solo? Matt Brooker, Paul Cornell, Pádraig Ó Méalóid, Bryan Talbot.

First World *20:00 Forsyth* The year is 2018 and the United States and China are on the eve of a new space race to the Moon. At an unprecedented cost, what was covered up during the Apollo space program will now yield the greatest secret of humanity. A 25-minute short film produced by Mark Lund in 2007

Autograph Session for Disabled Members *20:15 Royal: George* Autographs for people using mobility scooters and wheelchairs only.

Not 2B Toyed With *20:30 Forsyth* A 12 minute film in which obsessive Star Wars toy collector Troy is about to discover the power of the dark side when his nephew invades his perfectly packaged world.

Mitch Benn Entertains *21:00 Commonwealth* A regular on Radio 4's "Now Show" and Radio 2's "Its Been a Bad Week", Mitch Benn will entertain you with his own brand of comedy song.

Don't Cross the Streams *21:00 Royal: Edward* Where does science fiction end and fantasy begin? Where do you place books which treat fantasy elements with a science fictional sensibility? Is telepathy science fiction, or fantasy? Dave Clements, Colin Harvey, China Miéville, Graham Sleight, Peter Weston.

Video Gaming on the Cheap *21:00 Royal: Elizabeth* Video games are expensive. Lets swap hints and suggestions about how to do it cheaply; second hand, retro, online free games etc. Jonathan Baddeley, John Coxon, Rebecca Duty, Kin-Ming Looi.

Roughening up Fantasyland *21:00 Tetworth* It's twelve years since the publication of The Tough Guide to Fantasyland. How has this changed fantasy writing? How do you go about creating a gritting fantasy world, and what do the readers make of it? Joe Abercrombie, Holly Black, Michael Mike Cobley, Tanith Lee, Maura McHugh.

BDSM, Leather etc *21:00 Wentworth* A talk for adults only. Graham Marsden.

Slash & Pornography: Where Does Slash End and Porn Start? *22:00 Royal: Elizabeth* Ask a hundred slash writers if they write porn and fifty will say no. Where's the line? Does it matter if there isn't one? And what's wrong with writing porn anyway? This items is for adults only. Sue Mason, Milena Popova, Jean Sheward, Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Torchwood Wobblevision *22:00 Edwardian Lounge* Zero-budget, tongue-in-cheek fan production of an episode of Torchwood. The episode, and casting will be randomly chosen. Key scenes will be staged, photographed, and later turned into a web slideshow. No acting ability required. Warning: some scenes (particularly those involving Owen) may not be suitable for children. Alex Holden.

Disco - Dark Fantasy *22:00 Commonwealth* The second disco of the weekend has the theme dark fantasy, just to give you an excuse to wear black. With DJ Marwan.

Clanger Physics and Ecology *22:00 Royal: Edward* Where is the Clangers' planet? How big is a Clanger? What is the planet's mass, geology, atmosphere, ecosystems? The panel discuss. Simon Bradshaw, Richard Proctor, John Wilson.

Literature Quiz *22:00 Royal: George* Marcus Streets.

Fan Fund-raising Auction *22:00 Winchester* The traditional but unconventional auction. Proceeds to TAFF, GUFF, and others. Treats sponsored by Australia 2010, the Worldcon bid.

Filk *22:00 Tetworth* Have you been inspired to write a song over the weekend, but were too late (or too daunted) to sign up for the cabaret? Why not sign up for this evening's One-Shots concert? Followed by a circle till late. Coordinated by Valerie Houston.

Martha Jones - Most Heroic Companion? *23:00 Royal: Edward* Have we at last seen a companion worthy of the Doctor, or were some of the earlier companions just as good? Nickey Barnard, Paul Cornell, Kathy Jay, Calapine.

What Is Sci-Fi? *00:00 Royal: Elizabeth* Is it only space based fiction or can other fiction be classed as sci-fi? Tlanti, Tony Lee, John Medany, Milena Popova, Sue Wadsworth-Ladkin.

REDEMPTION '09
20 – 22 February 2009
Britannia Hotel, Coventry, UK
Multimedia Science Fiction Convention

Is There Anything Worth Saving? *10:00 Commonwealth* Circulation of the big SF short fiction magazines is dropping every year. Is it worth trying to save them, or should we accept it as inevitable and turn to other sources for our short fiction? Chris Beckett, Chaz Brenchley, Elizabeth Counihan, Mike Scott, Ian Whates.

CSI: Rubbish - the Fact and Fiction of Forensic Science *10:00 Royal: Edward* Christine Davidson.

Tai Chi *10:00 Royal: Elizabeth* Fiona Anderson.

Fan Fiction by and for SF Readers *10:00 Winchester* Is there really much less fan fiction deriving from novels than from film and TV? Can the panel demonstrate why classic SF novels fail as source material for fan fiction? Kate Bodley, Tanya Brown, Kari Maund.

Novel Discussion: Charles Stross – Accelerando *10:00 Tetworth* An in-depth discussion of 'Accelerando' by Charles Stross. Andrew Ducker.

Stamping Workshop *10:00 Wentworth* Ever fancied your hand at Scrapbooking? Don't know what Scrapbooking is? In this workshop, we'll make a little photo album using paper, stamps and some initiative. As one of only ten Ranger Industries Educators in the UK, Judi Hodgkin will show you some really cool techniques with some really cool products. You can keep this as a stamping project, or turn it into a photo album when you get home.

Writing Workshop *10:00 Belvedere* The T-Party, a London-based writers group specialising in SF/F/H, will run this half-day writers workshop. Experienced critiquers will operate in pairs with small (3/4) groups of writers. These critiquers will include 2 agented writers. This will be for those who sent manuscripts in advance. Martin Owton.

Future Conventions - What's in your Diary? *10:30 Royal: Elizabeth* This is a spot for future conrunners to come along and plug their convention whether it be a local convention, a national convention or even an international convention! Steve Cooper, Dave Lally, Steve Rogerson.

We Could Write Heroes *11:00 Commonwealth* Where did 2006's best new show go wrong? Vincent Docherty, John Medany, Rita Medany, Ricardo Pinto.

Solar Systems for Kids *11:00 Royal: George* A science workshop. Inge Heyer.

BSFA 50: It was Ten Years Ago Today - 1998 *11:00 Winchester* One of a set of five linked panels exploring what it was like to be an SF fan during the different eras since the BSFA was established. James Bacon, Claire Brialey, Niall Harrison, Pat Rigby-McMurray, Ian Sorensen.

The Mathematics of Knots *11:00 Tetworth* A talk by Nicholas Jackson.

Crisis Management Team Game 4 *11:00 Aintree* See Friday 15:00 for full details of this item. Sign up at reception. Nigel Furlong, Sabine Furlong.

What Do You Want to See at Redemption 09? *11:30 Royal: Elizabeth* The original idea for Orbital came from the people who run Redemption. If you like Orbital, then maybe you should give Redemption a try. This panel is a brainstorming session to come up with titles for programme items at next year's Redemption in Coventry. Steve Kilbane, Steve Rogerson.

Sex and the Singularity *12:00 Commonwealth* Will our post human future be a matter of living next-door to the god of love, or will the only wangs around be carpets? What will really happen to gender and identity if we upload—and who's written about it? Paul Cornell, Gareth Powell, Paul Raven, Charles Stross, Jaine Fenn.

Is there a Future for Trek with no TV Series? *12:00 Royal: Edward* Piers Beckley, Una McCormack, Kathy Sands, James Swallow.

What I Did on my Holidays *12:00 Winchester* Fan fund delegates share trip experiences, and why it was worth the competition, the write-up and the admin. Bridget Bradshaw, Christopher J. Garcia, Chris O'Shea, Ang Rosin.

The Future of Privacy in a Surveillance Society *12:00 Tetworth* Phil Bradley, Iain Coleman, Phil Huggins.

Bead Workshop *12:00 Wentworth* Learn to make little crystal star earrings. If you can bring your own materials, you will need ten, 4mm crystal bicones, about 25-30, size 11 seed beads, and earring findings. We will supply nylon monofilament thread. We will also have materials to buy; cost should be less than 4 pounds, if you don't have your own. There will be a sign-up sheet at registration, as the workshop can take a maximum of 18 people. Giulia de Cesare.

Hitchhiker's: How a Radio 4 Comedy Series Took Over the World *13:00 Commonwealth* Panel and audience discuss the lasting appeal, and their favourite incarnation, of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, a story told via radio, play, LP, book, TV, computer game and film. John Coxon, Neil Gaiman, David Haddock, Sharon Lewis-Jones, Liam Proven.

Crisis of Infinite Civil Wars *13:00 Royal: Edward* Special comic events, like Marvel's Civil War, and DC's Infinite Crisis, serve to bring attention to the industry and to boost comic sales. How successful are they for the faithful comics reader? Are we too tied up in continuity for the casual reader to step in? Michael Abbott, Roz Kaveney, Tony Keen, John Medany.

Eastercon Forum *13:00 Royal: Elizabeth* Please see the newsletter for the topic of this year's discussion on Eastercon issues. Fran Dowd, Peter Harrow, Dave Lally, Mark Young.

Real Space Exploration in the Movies *13:00 Winchester* Screen Adaptations of Factual Space Exploration. Do screen adaptations do factual space exploration justice? Are real life space adventures adventurous enough for today's audience? Simon Bradshaw, Jackie E Burns, Tony Lee, John Wadsworth-Ladkin.

Infinity Welcomes Careful Thinkers *13:00 Tetworth* Why my infinity is bigger than yours. Iain Coleman, Colin Fine, Nicholas Jackson, Susan Stepney.

You're Reading it Wrong *14:00 Commonwealth* Do you need to know genre to read genre? Do you need to know an author's previous work to critically assess their latest work? Is it even possible to 'mis-read' a book? To whose opinion (authors, critics, fans) should we give the most weight? Andrew Ducker, Penny Hill, Tanith Lee, Farah Mendlesohn, Charles Stross.

Urban Exploring *14:00 Royal: Edward* Phil and Jill take another look at Urban Exploring with a slideshow of their visits to insane asylums and other places they really shouldn't have been to. If you want to know what Urbex is all about, how you can get into it and go behind the fences, come along! Jill Bradley, Phil Bradley.

Feedback for Future Eastercons *14:00 Royal: Elizabeth* What would you like to see at future Eastercons? What should they learn from your experiences at Orbital. Have your say to help influence the Eastercon for next year and beyond.

Diversity in Comics *14:00 Winchester* Why are there so many dumb white guys? Jonathan Baddeley, Roz Kaveney, John Medany.

Ancient History Interpreted *14:00 Tetworth* How ancient history is interpreted by modern media. Stargate is probably the main example, but other TV shows and films have used ancient history as a base for their storylines. How well do they do this, and is it a good thing? Nickey Barnard, Tlanti, Kathy Sands, Juliet E McKenna.

Werewolves for Children - Session 2 *14:00 Hampstead* Another chance for children to play the popular late-night Werewolves game. Rita Medany.

Rope Bondage Workshop - Arm and Leg Binders *14:00 Ascot* If you look great, you can buy your rope afterwards for £1 per metre. Adults only. Graham Marsden.

The Great Crystal Cyberdrome Exhibition *14:00 Newbury 1* The main event – a retro-futuristic Great Exhibition, showcasing inventions that never were, and past visions of the world of today. If you think steam powered household cleaning robots with clockwork brains, you'll probably get some idea of what we mean. The centrepiece of the exhibition will be a diorama of The City of the Future, produced by members during the con in the chaos workshop. This will not be a realistic vision of our future, but an optimistic and rather tongue in cheek homage to early to mid 20th century futurists' visions of the kind of place we would be living in at the beginning of the 21st century.

Darker than Potter: The Disturbing Side of Children's Fiction *15:00 Commonwealth* The later Harry Potter books include frequent deaths, a dark tone and adult themes. Are the books still suitable for children? Is children's fantasy filled with dark and disturbing themes, or is this really a new trend? Holly Black, Neil Gaiman, Ruth O'Reilly, Sarah Singleton, Steve Vander Ark.

If I Ruled the Eastercon *15:00 Winchester* What's an Eastercon for and what makes it an Eastercon? Liz Batty, Simon Bradshaw, Caroline Mullan, Rog Peyton.

Life on Other Planets *15:00 Tetworth* What might life on other planets look and behave like? Tom Anderson, David Angus, Jackie E. Burns, Amanda Kear.

Closing Ceremony *16:00 Commonwealth* Time to say goodbye, find out who won the Martian war, hear lots of thank-yous and so on. But don't rush off afterwards, because there are still hours of the convention left!

Does SF Influence Science? *16:00 Royal Suite* Tom Anderson, Kathy Sands, Nik Whitehead.

Decoding the SF of 1958 (BSFA 50) *17:00 Commonwealth* Does it reflect the concerns of the time? Were they expressed, or escaped from, through science fiction? (To cover books, magazines, films and anything else relevant.) Claire Brialey, Peter Harrow, Tanith Lee, Graham Sleight.

Do Comics Make Good Movies? *17:00 Royal Suite* The panel discuss. James Bacon, John Coxon, Roz Kaveney, Stephen Kilbane, Tony Lee.

Reading by Cory Doctorow *17:00 Winchester* Cory Doctrow reads extracts from one of his books.

Extrasolar Planets *17:00 Tetworth* What do we now know about planetary systems around other stars? David Angus, Jackie E Burns, Inge Heyer, Nik Whitehead.

London SF Festival Shorts *17:00 Forsyth* Another chance to see this collection of shorts from the London Science Fiction Festival. Introduced by Dave Lally.

Identity Management in the Internet Age *18:00 Royal Suite* It used to be easy, didn't it? You knew who you were, and mostly so did everyone else. You knew who you were dealing with, and why. Of course there were exceptions... the refugees, the bloke with families in two towns, Nestle's multiple brands, but mostly, who knew or cared? But now? You can choose. How many of you are there? And where? And why do you choose to be who you are? Do you know who you are dealing with? When does it matter? And when it all goes horribly wrong...? Claire Brialey, Abi Brown, Caroline Mullan, Charles Stross.

Dead Dog Party *18:00 Edwardian Lounge* As the convention draws to a close, it's time to relax, drink some beer and chat with other convention goers. This is also a good opportunity to buy members of the committee a beer. Liam Proven will do a stand-up comedy slot and LX and Redemption 09 will do publicity speeches, but they will be short.

Horror in Space *19:00 Royal Suite* Is it SF or Just Gorefest in Space? Sunshine, Event Horizon, Aliens… humans and aliens romping about in outer space fighting it out with no consideration for how dangerous it is to be firing guns at the hull of a space craft…. But is it really science fiction or just an excuse for more gory SFX? Chad Dixon, Dave Lally, Tony Lee, Duncan Macgregor.

Filk *22:00 Tetworth* The con isn't over until the filkers have sung their final song. Come along to the Dead Musician Circle and sing. Or listen if you prefer. Coordinated by Valerie Houston.

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Programme Deputy .... Liz Batty
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Masquerade ..... Clare Goodall
Chaos Costuming ..... Barbara Stewart
Games Room ..... Henry Proctor and 'The Conspiritors'

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